



# Editorial: Triggering a Paradigm Shift in Public Policy Making in Nepal

Bishnu Raj Upreti<sup>1\*</sup>, Bikram Acharya<sup>1</sup>

1. Policy Research Institute, Narayanhiti, Kathmandu

Manuscript Received: -

Final Revision: -

Published: 25 September, 2022

When we launched ‘Nepal Public Policy Review (NPPR)’ as a policy journal last year, we were not sure how the stakeholders – academic researchers and the policy community in particular – would react to it. A year down the line, NPPR has been a platform to engage academic researchers and the policy community in critical discussion and reflection on how Nepal’s public policy discourse should be reimagined and restructured. We are happy that a frank and honest discussion has started. We hope the discussion will trigger a paradigm shift in the way public policies are envisioned, developed and implemented. Such a shift is long overdue in Nepal.

NPPR is promoted by Policy Research Institute (PRI), a government think tank, whose mandate is to offer evidence-based policy recommendations to the Government of Nepal on all issues of policy concern and relevance. To this end, PRI has developed a strategic plan with a vision to realise ‘effective and responsive public policy for national prosperity’ through strategies that involve research, knowledge management, knowledge transfer and various forms of public engagement (PRI, 2020). NPPR contributes to the vision and strategies by bringing a scholarly angle to the process, and functions independent of PRI.

Despite a larger number of journals being published in Nepal, there are hardly any with a sole policy focus. NPPR is expected to fill this gap by serving as a journal dedicated to public policymaking by adhering to the academic rigour that is needed to ensure the knowledge presented is peer-reviewed, verified and trusted. This is particularly important to depart from journal publishing practices in Nepal that are found to variously compromise editorial rigour and independence (Pant et al., 2022).

NPPR provides a dialogical space for everyone committed to public policy innovation. It expects ideas that challenge taken-for-granted knowledge and practices, initiate a reasoned debate on disputed issues and suggest creative alternatives in as clear a

**Keywords:** Policy Research, Policy Making, Editorial

\* Corresponding author; B.R. Upreti (brupreti@pri.gov.np), B. Acharya (bacharya@pri.gov.np)



manner. It also entertains time-tested personal narratives that offer policy clues and messages. However, in no way does the editorial team endorse the ideas, conclusions and even the way of presentation in any of the articles included in the volume.

While analysing the list of references in the manuscripts submitted for NPPR, we came across a significant number of materials published in predatory journals. This is scary. Such journals promote unverified knowledge and do not take responsibility for its implications. As we go to the press, we urge all scholars not to fall prey to predatory journals, stick to research integrity and hold academic honesty in high regard. We would also like to take this opportunity to invite interdisciplinary scholars to consider NPPR as a research publication outlet. We assure you of the best editorial assistance in the process.

Finally, we would like to thank all the scholars, senior experts and everyone who has helped us, directly or indirectly, in the journey whose gift is the volume in your hand.

## References

- PRI (2020). *Strategic Plan of Policy Research Institute (July 2020 - June 2025)*. Policy Research Institute
- Pant, D. P., Acharya, B., & Kattel, M. R. (2022). Preferential Publication Bias in Nepal's Medical Journals. *medRxiv*. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.08.15.22278758>